UNION GROVE NEWS

WDVA
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT of VETERANS AFFAIRS

THE WISCONSIN VETERANS HOME AT UNION GROVE

NOVEMBER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY

With the cool evenings of early Fall taking hold, let us give thanks to all who support our skilled care staff, members, and their families who are important parts of our community at the Veterans Home at Union Grove.

We continue to increase our admissions as our staffing levels allow. We appear to be through the worst days of the pandemic, but we must continue to take precautions against the spread of COVID including getting vaccine boosters. As we move into flu season, to also help us keep one another healthy, please be sure to get your flu shot.

Wisconsin is an especially wonderful place to live this time of year. I know our fun activity staff members at our Home are excited to hold Packer parties, celebrate Halloween, and more. We look forward to giving thanks together for our collective health and those we care about over the Holidays.

Also, we look forward to observing Veterans Day on Friday, November 11. As of now, we are formulating plans to determine what those celebrations will look like. We look forward to sharing the details of our Veterans Day tributes soon!

As Fall eventually turns towards Winter, I encourage everyone to explore the beauty of Autumn in the Badger State by exploring our state's parks, trails and lakes while enjoying the changing colors of the trees!

Enjoy!

Mary M. Kolar
Secretary, Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs

OUR MEMBER CHRISTMAS PARTY IS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH FROM 4:30-6:30PM

WE MET SOME FRIENDLY FACES ON OUR ZOOFARI ADVENTURE!

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

COMMANDANT'S CORNER

November is the month of Veterans Day and Thanksgiving. What am I thankful for? I'm thankful for our Veterans, and I am thankful for the dedicated staff who make our Veterans Home such a special place to live! I can't imagine Union Grove without our fabulous volunteers and donors. We are blessed with such a wonderful community of support. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTE!

As we enter this holiday season, I look forward to joining members, families, and loved ones in celebrating together.
– Kimberly, Commandant

BUILDING & GROUNDS

You'll notice we've been busy with renovations. The nurses' stations, elevator, and 16 restrooms have been updated. By the end of the month, construction should be completed on the kitchenettes and the receptionist's front desk.
– Stevie, Buildings and Grounds Director

DINING SERVICES

We have replaced our retherm units and are looking forward to the kitchen renovations as they complete the renovations on the units in anticipation of the forthcoming fully operational kitchen.
– Anne, Dining Services Director

HOUSEKEEPING

Please join us in welcoming Jessica Rihn to our team! At this time of year members tend to receive increased gifts of clothing and other goods that pass through our laundry. Please remember that anything that gets laundered must be marked. We want to ensure those wonderful warm gifts are returned to you once laundered.
– Dee, Housekeeping Director

NURSING

It's the most wonderful time of the year which means … colds, flu, and COVID-19. Your nursing staff has been proactive to keep everyone healthy. In compliance with the CDC, we have been conducting N95 fit tests to ensure employee masks fit correctly. Staff wear N95s and eyewear on the units, and members and staff are tested twice weekly. Vaccines to protect against COVID-19 bivalent and annual influenza have been made available to members and staff. We have had one COVID bivalent clinic and two more are planned, while influenza vaccinations for staff have been administered as requested.
– Margaret, Director of Nursing;
Pia, Assistant Director of Nursing

ACTIVITY & VOLUNTEER

Our members enjoyed many fall activities in October.

Fourteen couples participated in our **Sweetest Day** event which included sweet treats, entertainment, and corsages and boutonnieres created and donated by a family member. Four of our campus couples have celebrated over 60 years of marriage, with one couple at 76 years and counting!

Several volunteers assisted in grilling for our **Oktoberfest** lunch featuring brats, German potato salad, German chocolate cake, and of course, beer. The **American Legion Auxiliary Pewaukee #71** provided a catered meal of beef stroganoff from a local restaurant, and we honored our **eleven Navy Members** with an ice cream social.

Members also participated in an **outing to a local apple orchard** to sample a delicious variety of apples, apple cider and apple cider donuts. We wrapped up October with a spooky staff Halloween fashion show during our **Halloween happy hour**!
– Terri, Activity and Volunteer Director

QUIZ:

WHAT IS THE EASIEST WAY TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS?

ANSWER:

WASH YOUR HANDS!

HOW TO WASH YOUR HANDS

It's generally best to wash your hands with soap and water. Over-the-counter antibacterial soaps are no more effective at killing germs than is regular soap.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Wet your hands with clean, running warm water (not hot).
- Apply soap and lather well.
- Rub your hands vigorously for at least 20 seconds (the amount of time it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song. Remember to scrub all surfaces, including the backs of your hands, wrists, between your fingers and under your fingernails.
- Rinse well.
- Dry your hands with a clean towel or air-dry them.
- Use a clean dry towel to turn off lights, open the door, or touch other surfaces.

HOW TO USE AN ALCOHOL-BASED HAND SANITIZER

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers, which don't require water, are an acceptable alternative when soap and water aren't available. If you use a hand sanitizer, make sure the product contains at least 60% alcohol.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS:

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand. Check the label instructions to find out the appropriate amount.
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS

HERE ARE SOME OF THE SPECIAL EVENTS PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER. PLEASE REFER TO EACH FLOOR'S MONTHLY ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR THE COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ALL OUR WONDERFUL ACTIVITIES.

Wednesday, Nov. 2nd - **Walmart Outing** - 1:15PM

Thursday, Nov. 3rd - **Member Voting**

Friday, Nov. 4th - **3rd Floor Country Cruise** - 2:00PM

Monday, Nov. 7th - **Ice Cream Social** - 1:30PM - Pub

Tuesday, Nov. 8th - **Vietnam Veterans of America-Sponsored Bingo** - 2:00PM - MPR

Wednesday, Nov. 9th - **Post 171 Sponsored Meal** - Noon

Friday, Nov. 11th - **Veteran's Day Eat Out In** - Noon - On Units

Friday, Nov. 11th - **Red, White, and Blue Happy Hour** - 2:00PM - Pub

Wednesday, Nov. 16th - **Gathering of Friends Thanksgiving Treats** - 10:00AM

Monday, Nov. 21st - **Ice Cream Social** - 1:30PM - Pub

Friday, Nov. 25th - **Deck the Halls** - Christmas Decorating

---

DONATIONS

We are grateful for the generous support we receive. Thank you to the many individuals and organizations that donated money and in-kind in October.

Here's a summary of cash donations received last month.

UNION GROVE GIFTS & BEQUESTS
MONETARY DONATIONS FOR OCTOBER 2022

GENERAL	$900.00
ACTIVITY SUPPLY	$200.00
EAT OUT-IN	$200.00
MUSIC THERAPY	$500.00
TOTAL	$1,800.00

VOLUNTEER NOTES

REMINDERS REGARDING POLICIES/CHECK-IN

All volunteers must be COVID tested prior to your visit with Members. Testing is required each day that you visit. Please see receptionist for testing details. Please allow an additional 15 minutes for COVID test results.

Just a reminder that when volunteering, please sign in at our KIOSK under the 'volunteer' tab. Also make sure you sign out. Since all who enter Boland Hall are required to sign in at the KIOSK, we will utilize this process to tabulate your volunteer hours. If at some point the KIOSK sign in is no longer required, we will return to signing in with the 3-ring binder which was historically located at the front desk.

Volunteers are required to either have a completed a COVID vaccine series or have an approved religious or medical exemption from WDVA. If you have not submitted either of these forms, and want to continue volunteering, please do so ASAP, by contacting Terri Presser at 262-878-6725

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 66 VOLUNTEERS WITH ONE MORE IN PROCESS, AND OVER 180 VOLUNTEER HOURS WERE PROVIDED IN SEPTEMBER

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER

Gordon Voss – November 1st
Kenneth Datzer – November 7th
James Sarchet – November 15th
Emil Tenuta – November 21st – **101st Birthday!**
John Gustin – November 21st
Thomas Collopy – November 25th

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Assist with kitchen food prep and tray line

Assist in laundry

Pass out monthly activity calendars and newsletters

Gathering of Friends social/food events

Stretch your legs and enjoy the outdoors by taking a member for a wheelchair walk

Provide one to one Member visits

Assist with Member bingo

Provide a movie night on 1st, 2nd, & 3rd floors of Boland Hall

Apply your creativity to help keep our bulletin boards seasonal and up-to-date

IF INTERESTED IN ANY OF THESE OPPORTUNITIES, PLEASE CONTACT TERRI PRESSER 262-878-6725

WISH LIST

Puff corn , Cheeto puffs, Butter flavored puffs

Variety packs of individual bags of chips: Plain Lays, Doritos, Cheetos

Mini muffins

Snack size candy bars (no nuts): Hershey, Milky Way, 3 Musketeer

Reese's peanut butter cups

Sugar free candy: Hard candies and chocolate

7-Up regular soda

Diet soda: Coke, Pepsi, 7-Up, root beer

O'Doul's-non-alcohol beer

Lemon and orange "Young Living" essential oils

Colored pencils for coloring pages

Electric razors

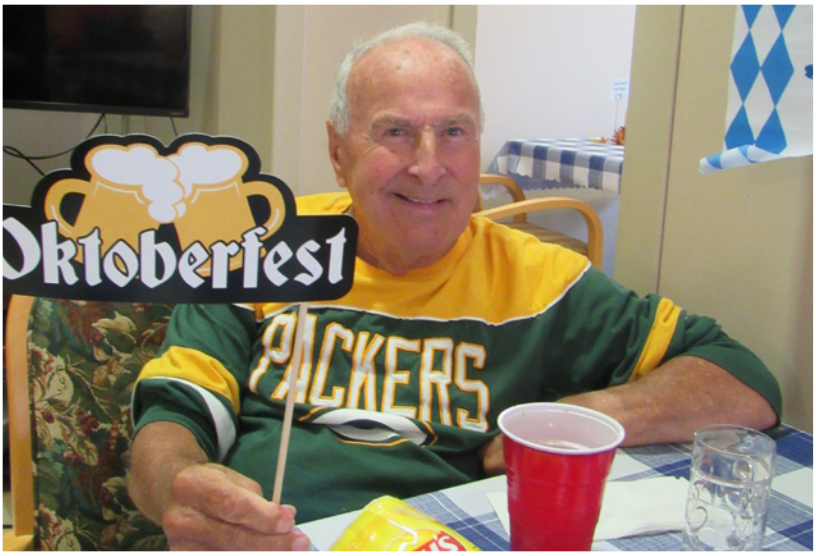
AAA batteries.

ENGAGEMENT

GATHERING OF FRIENDS BREAKFAST
& A ZOOFARI ADVENTURE

ENGAGEMENT

GOOD FOOD AND GOOD SPIRITS
AT OUR OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION



ENGAGEMENT

CELEBRATING OUR FAVORITE SWEETHEARTS ON SWEETEST DAY